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A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government do not consider it desirable to adopt the suggestion as it would lead to discontent among the candidates not summoned for personal interviews.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—“ With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I know, when the number of appointments to be made is only very few and hundreds of candidates apply for them, what the necessity is to call all these applicants for a personal interview and subject them to expense, inconvenience and disappointment ? ”

The hon. Sir NORMAN MAJORIBANKS :—“ That is answered in clause (b). ”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Marine

Recommendations of the Committee appointed in England on the Tuticorin Harbour Works.

1765 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what the recommendations are of the Committee appointed in England as to the Tuticorin Harbour Works ; and

(b) what orders Government have passed or contemplate passing ?

A.—(a) The report of the Committee has been published in the Press Communiqué issued on 7th March 1928.

(b) No orders have yet been passed and Government are unable to say what orders they will pass in the future.

Constitution of the Cochin Port Trust.

1766 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what action has been taken on the recommendations of the Cochin Port Conservancy Board as to the acquisition of lands or waters for the port of Cochin in the State of Cochin ; and

(b) when the Cochin Port Trust will be constituted ?

A.—(a) The Government have not received any such recommendation.

(b) The Cochin Port Trust cannot be constituted until the Cochin Port Trust Act, 1925, is brought into force ; this Act cannot be brought into force until certain arrangements to be made with the Cochin Darbar are complete.

Minor Irrigation

Repairs to Mathalai Mannadykulam tank in the Madura district.

* 1767 Q.—Mr. W. P. A. SOUNDARAPANDYA NADAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the tank known as Mathalai Mannadykulam in the village of Mela-Gudaloor, Madura district, is in urgent need of repairs and whether general repairs to the tank have not been carried out within the last twenty years ;

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(b) whether it is a fact that the district authorities are neglecting and postponing general repairs to the tank although the Government have from time to time sanctioned some amount towards the expenses for the repair of the said tank;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Collector of Madura is demanding contributions from the ayacutdars towards the repair of the tank; and

(d) whether it is a fact that repairs to the tank is postponed since the ryots are not prepared to contribute?

A.—The Government do not know whether or not the facts are as stated. The Government do not sanction sums for expenditure on individual tanks.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II

ELECTION TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY COMPANY.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have to announce to the House that M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu Garu and Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur have been elected as Members of the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company."

III

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1928-29.

DEMAND IV—FOREST.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The debate on this demand closes at 12-15. The House will resume discussion on Mr. Harisarvottama Rao's motion, viz., to reduce the allotment of Rs. 95,900 for General Direction by Rs. 100."

* Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI:—"As regards the other presidencies where this department is managed, we see from the statistics that they are managing it much better than what it is done here. In Bengal the revenue from the forests is 27 lakhs whereas the expenditure is 17 lakhs; Bombay 73 lakhs revenue and 37 lakhs expenditure; United Provinces 57 lakhs revenue and 34 lakhs expenditure; Central Provinces 56 lakhs against 39 lakhs; Punjab 43 lakhs against 34 lakhs; Burma 190 lakhs against 94 lakhs; Madras 53 lakhs against 46 lakhs expenditure. Then, Sir, in answer to this, it is stated that this is a department where development is required. Unfortunately our valuable forests are in obscure places and in rough places and they say that so much spade work is required and so much capital investment is required and so we have to spend more than what is ordinarily wanted.

"So far as capital expenditure is concerned, my submission to this House is that capital expenditure should not be met from ordinary revenues. This is a commercial business and wherever capital expenditure is required it ought to be met from borrowed money and not from ordinary revenues.